States	(Figures in Lakhs)
Manipur	0.08
Meghalaya	0.08
Mizoram	0.08
Nagaland	0.06
Orissa	2.17
Punjab	7.42
Rajasthan	6.31
Sikkim	0.00
Tamilnadu	14.94
Tripura	0.37
Uttar Pradesh	15.05
West Bengal	11.20
Total	140.31
Union Territories	
Andaman & Nicobar	0.12
Chandigarh	0.86
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.02
Daman & Diu	0.05
Lakshadweep	0.01
Pondicherry	0.54
Total	1.59
All India.	141.90

Schemes to involve local bodies in cultural programmes

*54. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA'
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to involve local bodies—Panchayats and Nagar Palikas—in important cultural programmes of the Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme has been formulated to establish Rural Libraries at Panchayat level. The scheme is to be implemented through the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation in cooperation with the State Govts./Union Territories on a 75:25 matching basis. The scheme aims to provide assistance to Gram Panchayats including local government authority at Block level if there are no village Panchayats. The Centre's share of the grant is: for construction of library building an amount of Rs. 1 lakh and for purchase of books, furniture and equipment Rs. 50,000/-. to effectively run the library activities, the library will be administered at the Panchayat level by a Committee comprised of BDO/Panchayat Pradhan/ Sarpanch/Mukhiya in their ex-official capacity and such other representatives as the State Govt. may nominate.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, celebrations are being planned in a manner that will ensure participation by a maximum number of people, involving all sections of Society and at all levels such as towns, villages, Tehsils, district headquarters, State Capitals, factories, trading centres, schools, colleges, universities, local bodies and panchayti Raj institutions etc. The plan of action for this celebration is to be decided by State level Committees formed for the celebrations of 50th Anniversary of India's Independence. In this connection Union Minister of Human Resource Development has addressed a detailed communication on 2.6.97 to all Chief Ministers.

(c) Does not arise.

Areas likely to be hit by drought

*55. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas and regions in India which are lickly to be hit by drought this year;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken right from the beginning of the season to help the drought affected people; and

(c) what guidance is being given to the farmers who are likely to suffer from the drought?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) According to the forecast of the India Meteorological Department for 1997 monsoon, the rainfall for the country as a whole for the entire season (June to September) is likely to be about 92% of its long period average value, within a model forecast error limit of ±4%, which is considered normal. During the period 1st June to 16th July, 1997 the country as a whole received 96% of the normal rainfall for this time of the season, even though some deficiencies have been recorded in some areas.

The agricultural operations dufing the Kharif season are progressing and there are no reports from any part of the country of serious drought like conditions so far. However, aberrations in the spatial & temporal distribution of the rainfall occur in some areas even in a good monsoon year. Concrete measures can be taken only when it is clear which areas are under drought. Keeping this in view, Govt. of India requests the State Governments every year to prepare Contingency Plans well in time before the onset of monsoon to face contigencies if any warranted by variations in monsoon behaviour.

This year also, a Model Contingent Plan for crop production for effectively responding to adverse situation like the delayed onset or early withdrawal of monsoon, long inter spells of dry periods and heavy rains causing floods at different stages of crop growth had been circulated to all States. The State Governments have formulated detailed Contigency Plans in consultation with the State Agricultural Universities for ensuring availability of seeds of alternate crops, adoption of suitable agronomic practices etc. to tide over problems caused by the above mentioned contigencies.

Wagon procured under rolling stock programme

*56. SHRI JIBONROY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the wagons procured through wagon India Ltd. under rolling stock programme during the last three years;

(b) the actual date of delivery vis-a-vis the scheduled date of delivery by the constituents of Wagon India;

(c) whether Pricing committee for wagons appointed by Railways in December, 1994 had submitted its report in April. 1996;

(d) if so, the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Number of wagons procured through wagon India Ltd. against Railways's rolling stock programme in last three years are as follows:—

(In four wheeler Units)

YEAR	QUANTITY
1994-95	9000
1995-96	10157.5
1996-97	10222.5

(b) The statement indicating delivery of wagons against orders placed through Wagon India Ltd. on different constituents of wagon India Ltd. in last three years, is attached as an annexure. *(See Appendix 181, Annexure No. 13)*

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Majority of the recommendations of the Pricing Committee have been